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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/506,534	02/17/2000	Nobuyuki Kaneko	FUJA 17.073	7489

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EXAMINER

WONG, ALLEN C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2613

DATE MAILED: 11/05/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/506,534

Applicant(s)

KANEKO ET AL.

Examiner

Allen Wong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 August 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 11, 15, 17, 18 and 20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 1-5 and 8-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bruno (5,710,591) in view of Morgan (4,977,449).

Regarding claim 20, Bruno discloses a video telecommunication system comprising: a plurality of video transmission apparatuses each of which is provided with a camera (fig.1, element 20 is a camera that is located in each station or apparatus 12, where each station computer can transmit information out), a video reception apparatus with a monitor for receiving and displaying video information sent from each camera (fig.1, element 14 is a monitor located at each station 12, where each station computer can receive and display information), and a network over which each of the plurality of

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video transmission apparatuses is connected to the video reception apparatus (fig.1, element 26 is a network connecting all the workstations 12a-12c), further comprising:

a character information receiver unit for receiving, through a switch control path on the network, character information from a video information describing unit which sends a switch command for one of the plurality of cameras, simultaneously sends character information describing the video information of the camera in accordance with the switch command, and makes the monitor display the video information and the character information (col.6, ln.1-18; Bruno discloses the switching signal, generated by element 26, for switching to the user to initiate the multimedia conference; also in col.6, ln.40-46, Bruno discloses that each conference participant user from each workstation 12a-12c can have textual or character information simultaneously associated with the video feed as one can observe in Bruno's figure 1, where at workstation 12a, there is a camera 20a for permitting the users from 12b and 12c to simultaneously see the user at 12a on their display screens 14b and 14c, respectively, and there is a keyboard 16a to input textual or character information so as to simultaneously inform the other users from 12b and 12c to see what is being typed in by user at 12a on their display screens 14b and 14c, respectively);

a decoding unit for converting the video information received through the video path on the network to analog video information (see fig.1 and note that the monitors 14a, 14b and 14c are connected to the same network, and that information transmitted can be observed at each workstation, thus, clearly the information is decoded otherwise the multimedia conference would not be possible); and

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a display combining unit for combining the character information from the character information receiver unit with the video information from the decoding unit and outputting the result to the monitor (col.6, ln.40-46; Bruno discloses that each conference participant user from each workstation 12a-12c can have textual or character information simultaneously associated with the video feed as one can observe in Bruno's figure 1, where at workstation 12a, there is a camera 20a for permitting the users from 12b and 12c to simultaneously see the user at 12a on their display screens 14b and 14c, respectively, and there is a keyboard 16a to input textual or character information so as to simultaneously inform the other users from 12b and 12c to see what is being typed in by user at 12a on their display screens 14b and 14c, respectively; thus, Bruno discloses the display combining unit).

Although Bruno does not specifically disclose a configuration of providing a plurality of video transmission apparatuses each having a camera for providing information to a video reception apparatus placed in a single supervisory center, however, Morgan teaches the configuration of providing a plurality of video transmission apparatuses each having a camera for providing information to a video reception apparatus placed in a single supervisory center (col.2, ln.35-45 and col.3, ln.48-64; Morgan's fig.3 discloses the use of a demodulator 58 at a central location or a supervisory center, where one or more monitors 60, at the central location, can be implemented for viewing image data from multiple cameras and that the images from these cameras can be switched if desired). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the teachings of Bruno and Morgan as a whole for

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permitting the viewing of plural images obtained by multiple sources. Doing so would minimize equipment costs and space requirements so as to provide a highly efficient system usable in numerous remote video camera operations (col.2, ln.41-45).

Note claims 1, 3-5, 8-9 and 11-19 have similar corresponding elements.

Regarding claim 2, Bruno discloses the switching command for the camera to the transmission apparatus (col.6, ln.1-18; Bruno discloses the switching signal, generated by element 26, for switching to the user to initiate the multimedia conference).

Regarding claims 10 and 21-22, Bruno discloses the character information alteration unit (fig.1, elements 16a-16c are keyboards that permit the alteration of character information).

1. Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bruno (5,710,591) and Morgan (4,977,449) in view of Larson (5,541,640).

Regarding claims 6-7, Bruno and Morgan do not disclose the use of MPEG video encoding standard for video compression and decompression. However, Larson teaches that MPEG encoding/decoding techniques can be use in the teleconferencing environment (col.16, ln.64 to col.17, ln.6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the teachings of Bruno and Larson as a whole for applying MPEG compression so as to accurately, efficiently encode image data while maintaining high image quality. Doing so would save costs.

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen Wong whose telephone number is (703) 306-5978. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays to Thursdays from 8am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Kelley can be reached on (703) 305-4856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.


Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

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Allen Wong
Examiner
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10/29/03


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